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Honorable members of the Task Force,

I oppose any bill that would ban types of firearms, types of magazines, or introduce a tax on ammunition. I oppose those ideas because I believe they will no effect when it comes to stopping these madman who want to kill people.

The assault weapons ban has been fundamentally flawed since its creation. I say that because all it does is ban cosmetic features and sometimes ergonomic features of firearms, it doesn't actually make them any more or less deadly. If you ban threaded barrels, pistol grips, or other handles, people and gun manufacturers are just going to go and take that feature off of the weapon. I own a rifle that would be considered an assault weapon under this ban. If the ban goes through, I can go home, and with one bolt, remove the pistol grip to make it compliant with the law. Does that change how many bullets it can shoot? How much damage it can do? Absolutely not. All it means it that I need to slightly twist my wrist when holding the weapon. Do you think that's going to deter a madman from killing a bunch of people? Do you think they're going to care if their weapon doesn't have a flash suppressor, an adjustable stock, or a bayonet mount? History has shown us that they don't. Columbine happened during the last assault weapons ban. Virginia Tech happened after the ban expired, except the killer used two handguns that would be legal to have under this new assault weapons ban. That madman killed 32 people that day. Here in Connecticut, we have an assault weapons ban, it was proven ineffective at stopping this most recent tragedy, because again, we're only banning cosmetic features, and not actually addressing the root cause of the problem, and getting these people the help they need.

Magazine capacity is a similar story. If you limit the capacity to only 10 rounds, these madman are just going to carry more magazines, that is of course if they bother to comply with the law. Again, this was shown during previous mass shootings. One killer at Columbine complied with the previous assault weapons ban, and he just carried multiple 10 round magazines. The other killer didn't care about the law, and used his 30 and 50 round magazines. At Virginia tech, the killer had 10 round magazines for one of his pistols, and 15 round magazines for the other. These are small in comparison to the 30, 50, and 100 round magazines used at recent shootings, but yet this madman actually killed more people than they did.

Please, for the sake of our children, our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our fellow citizens, let's learn from our previous failed attempts, and instead do something that will be effective against this problem. Instead of attacking the tool that can be easily swapped out with another, lets figure out why these people do what they do, and stop them before they can harm anyone.

Thank you for time and thanks for letting our voices be heard,

Tom Mazur